

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: FRANCO'S DEATH--SERMON BY CARDINAL PRIMATE AT FUNERAL

REF: MADRID 8188

1. IN HIS SERMON AT THE FUNERAL MASS FOR FRANCO HELD
SUNDAY IN THE PLAZA DE ORIENTE, CARDINAL GONZALEX MARTIN, ARCH-

BISHOP OF TOLEDO AND PRIMATE OF SPAIN, CALLED THE
MEMORY OF FRANCO AN "IMMENSE LEGACY OF POSITIVE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS." NAMING THE SWORD AND THE CROSS TWO SYMBOLS OF
FRANCO'S LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS, "A HALF CENTURY OF THE
HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY WHICH IS NEITHER AS STRANGE AS
SOME WISH TO TELL US NOR AS SIMPLE AS OTHERS INDICATE,"
HE CALLED FOR "PATRIOTISM AS A RELIGIOUS VIRTUE, NOT AS
AN IMPASSIONED EXALTATION" TO ENABLE SPANIARDS TO LIVE
IN "TRUTH, JUSTICE, LOVE AND PEACE."

2. THE PRIMATE SAID THAT THE REMEMBRANCE AND THE GRATI-
TUDE WHICH THE PEOPLE ARE MANIFESTING CAN NEVER BE EXPRESSED
IN "IMMOBILISM", BECAUSE THE WORK OF CREATING A STATE IS
NEVER FINISHED. GRATITUDE FOR THAT ACHIEVED BY FRANCO
SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN A "CREATIVE EXPECTATION OF PEACE
AND OF PROGRESS," SO THAT "LIBERTY MAY BE EFFICIENT AND
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ORDERED, SO THAT OUR PLURALISM MAY ENRICH US RATHER THAN

DIVIDE US" AND SO THAT "OUR NATION, NEVER THE SLAVE OF IDEOLOGIES, MAY ADVANCE TOWARDS A MORE SERENE INTEGRATIONS OF ITS SONS."

3. "WITH EYES OPEN TOWARDS THE NEW DIRECTIONS VISIBLE ON THE HORIZON," HE CALLED ON ALL SPANIARDS "TO NEVER CEASE TO BE SOWERS OF PEACE AND OF HARMONY AT THE SERVICE OF A JUST ORDER" AND HE PRAYED THAT GOD WOULD GIVE THE KING THE WISDOM TO BE KING OF ALL SPANIARDS AND TO NEVER CEASE HIS FIGHT "FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN MEANING OF LIFE," FINALLY, HE ASKED THAT THE NATION "PARDON" THOSE WHO DESERVED IT AS THE "FIRST FRUIT" OF A NEW ERA AND THE "LAST FRUIT OF A LIFE WHICH HAS JUST BEEN EXTINSHED".

4. THE CARDINAL PRIMATE'S FUNERAL ORATION TREATED FRANCO WITH ELEGANCE AND GRACE. BUT AGAIN, AS WITH THE MESSAGES OF CARDINAL TARANCON - THE PRESIDENT OF THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE - AND CARDINAL JUBANY (SEE REFTTEL) HE ALIGNED THE CHURCH WITH THE PRINCE AND WITH EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE.
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